

Chairs, Labor and Public Employees Committee,

Dear Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I am urging you to support H.B. 5353, An Act Concerning a Fair Work Schedule.

It is a matter of respect and dignity that all workers have access to a job that is stable and provides opportunity.

Tens of thousands of workers in Connecticut begin their work week without a schedule. They work "on-call", with unpredictable, fluctuating workweeks which they have no control over. They cannot rely on their jobs to provide stability or a reliable paycheck. They are denied full-time hours, so they don't receive benefits - and they cannot seek another job, as they don't have a fixed schedule.

The effects are devastating for working families. The impact is far more devastating for low-wage workers, especially people of color, who saw their income fall during the pandemic.

H.B. 5353 will put an end to these practices, ensuring that more than 140,000 retail, food service, and hotel workers have more predictable schedules and reliable paychecks. The bill will give part-time employees the opportunity to work more hours, requiring employers to offer extra shifts to current workers before hiring additional staff. More than anything, it will ensure that employers treat their employees with respect, setting their schedules in advance and providing compensation for any late changes.

I strongly urge you to support H.B. 5353, the Fair Workweek bill, this session. Connecticut families cannot wait any longer.

Thank you.

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